Excellency Abdullah Bin Ali Al-Amri
President of UNEA-7 and Chair of the Environment Authority of Oman
C/C UNEA-7 Bureau

21/02/2025

RE: LAMG Contribution to UNEA-7 Ministerial Declaration

Your Excellency,

To date, no Ministerial Declaration has explicitly mentioned Local and Subnational Governments (LSNGs).

Therefore, the Local Authorities Major Group proposal is to:

- Emphasize the significant role of LSNGs in environmental stewardship, air pollution regulation, household and waste management, and are key contributors to the circular economy;

- Align the UNEA-7 Ministerial Declaration with the inclusive and multilateral approach advocated in previous UNEA sessions by explicitly recognizing the role of LSNGs.

It is suggested that UNEA-7 should endeavour to incorporate appropriate language and mandates in relevant resolutions, to be negotiated, to ensure that local and subnational perspectives are adequately reflected in global environmental governance. Each UNEA session should receive a report from the designated representative of local and subnational authorities, ensuring their contributions are heard at the highest level.

We also encourage effective planning in the agenda of the UNEA7 that facilitates timely adoption of the Ministerial Declaration in order to ensure necessary flexibility for the completion of the negotiations of other UNEA7 Resolutions, and to enable review of the implementation of previous UNEA resolutions.

UNEA7 Ministerial Declaration Zero Draft – LAMG Proposed language

Proposal for Preambular Paragraphs (PPs):

Recognizing that local and subnational governments play a significant role in, among other areas, environmental stewardship, air pollution regulation, household and waste management, and are key contributors to the circular economy,

Noting that a new UN body, the UN Forum of Mayors, also discusses relevant issues such as climate change and waste management, which are within the competences of local and subnational governments,

Bearing in mind the importance of local and subnational governments in addressing environmental challenges at multiple governance levels, thereby reinforcing the effectiveness of global commitments through local action,

Welcoming the Summit of the Future, including its Pact for the Future and other annexes, pursuant to its vision for inclusive multilateralism as a prerequisite for safeguarding global environment and sustainability,

Proposal for Operative Paragraphs (OPs):

Decides to enhance and support organisation of the Cities and Regions Summit, in collaboration with the Local Authorities Major Group, as an integral element of the UN Environment Assembly, with its Declaration recognized as an input to the official agenda.

Member States commit to considering the inputs and contributions of local and subnational governments in relevant resolutions, treaties, and declarations whenever possible, reinforcing their role as key stakeholders in environmental governance.

Yours Sincerely,

Yunus Arikan, Director of Global Advocacy, ICLEI and Kamelia Kamileva, Co-Director, Global Cities Hub, as representatives of Local Authorities Major Group at UNEP Group of Friends for Enhanced Civil Society Participation

On behalf of Local Authorities Major Group Co-Facilitators, Dr Magash Naidoo, Head: Circular Development, ICLEI and Jean-Baptiste Buffet, Advocacy Head, UCLG